

BLISSFIELD

AUGUST 2006
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VILLAGE NEWSLETTER

2006 ELECTION

Please remember that this is the first year that our new election schedule goes into effect. This year, Village elections will take place at the regular November 7 general election. Poll hours will be from 7am to 8pm, at the Blissfield Elementary School. We will have the following positions up for election this year: Village President, Treasurer, and Clerk (each for 2-year terms), 3 Village Trustee positions (each for 4-year terms), and 5 Library Board members (2 for 2-year terms, and 3 for 4-year terms). Please remember that nominating petitions are due at 4pm, Tuesday, August 15, at the Blissfield Township Office downtown.

Also remember, that while no Village positions will be on the ballot at the August 8 primary election, a Village issue will. The bond for the proposed new Village Office and Police Department will be on the ballot. We ask that everyone get out and vote, both at the August 8 primary election and the November 7 general election.

Library Board Openings

There are now three openings on the Village's Library Board (out of six available positions). While all three positions are up for election in the November election, we would like to fill these positions with interim Board-members as soon as possible. If you may be interested in an appointment to the Library Board, please send a Letter of Interest (that describes your interest in the position, your philosophy towards Libraries, and any pertinent qualifications and experience) to James Wonacott at the Village Office (408 E. Adrian St., PO Box 129, Blissfield, MI 49228).

2006 Taxes

Just a reminder - the 2006 Village taxes are due no later than September 14, 2006. The Village taxes (down by 1% to 14.2586 mils this year) are payable at the Village Office (408 E. Adrian St.) until September 14. Beginning September 15, they can only be paid at the County Courthouse. Taxes paid after September 14 will have interest and penalties assessed as well.

Also, you should have received another tax statement this summer, containing both the state education tax and the County tax. THESE ARE NOT ADDITIONAL TAXES. Two years ago, the state decided that the state education tax should be paid with summer taxes instead of winter taxes, and that process continues this year. In addition, the state decided that 2/3 of the county tax would be paid in the summer this year (and all of it next summer). Your next winter taxes will be reduced by the amount of this education tax and the County tax. Remember to pay the state education tax/County tax bill at the County Treasurer's Office in Adrian. We cannot take these payments at the Village Office.

Village Comprehensive Plan Review

The Village Planning Commission will review and could approve the new revised draft Comprehensive Plan at their August meeting. The Village Council then has to approve it. If/when they do, the draft plan will be sent out to various area government boards for their review, and the Planning Commission will schedule a public hearing on the draft plan later this fall. After they receive any comments that come from either the government boards and/or members of the public, they will approve a final draft of the plan, and send it to the Village Council for formal final approval.

SCHULTZ-HOLMES MEMORIAL LIBRARY

Summer Reading and Beyond

As of this writing, the Summer Reading Programs are in full swing. We had 135 members complete the required reading last summer, and we expect to be equally successful this year. A story hour for pre-schoolers will resume in the fall. This year we added a book club for grown-ups, and we hope to move the grown-ups into some seasonal reading in the fall.



New Stuff: Wireless Internet, Microfilm Reader

Through our affiliation with the Lenawee County Library, the Schultz-Holmes Library now has wireless internet available. The access point is in the main room of the library behind the circulation desk, and the hot spot covers the study areas and the auditorium. Please remember that patrons on the library's wireless network, even on their own computers, are subject to all applicable library policies and procedures regulating appropriate use of the internet, including those concerning content. Bring your wireless-enabled devices and tap the signal.

Through a bequest of the estate of Lawrence Rost and the tireless efforts of (now former) Board Member Sandra Meeks, the library has purchased a Canon 350 Microfilm Scanner. We now have two microfilm scanners for public use. Please see library personnel for help with the scanners.

New Internet Use Policy

In compliance with state and federal laws, the library has deployed three filtered work stations for use by patrons under the age of 18. Persons over the age of 18 may sign up to use one of three unfiltered workstations, including one connected to the microfilm scanners. Parents present with their children may allow their children to use an unfiltered workstation reserved under the parent's signature.

Finally

I just wanted to thank the people of Blissfield for their good wishes and hearty hellos over the past couple of months. I already love this library and this town and hope we have many years of good feeling and great reading ahead of us.

Bob Barringer
Library Director

DDA News

Downtown Flowers

Have you had a chance to get downtown and see the wonderful flowers, urns and hanging baskets? Thanks to our friends at the Blissfield Elementary School B.E.L.L. lab under the direction of Gary Koppleman; we have some beautiful flowers this year. The plants are looking great at the park as well. Thanks to Rodney Hoekenson and Sherry Carter from Creation Station for volunteering to help plant those planter boxes as part of Thrivent, national volunteer campaign, "Join Hands Day."

Façade Improvement Grants

The Downtown Development Authority created the Façade Improvement Grant Program to encourage private investment in the downtown building stock, to enhance the overall physical appearance of downtown Blissfield and to maintain/restore some sense of the historical character of each building. Grant dollars are available for Rehabilitation/ Restoration of building exterior (including awnings), installation or replacement of appropriate window, appropriate façade cleaning or painting and masonry improvements; all up to 25% of project cost. The maximum grant per year, per applicant is \$2,500. Applications are available at the DDA office at 105 N. Lane Street, or you can contact Shelly Woods at (517) 486-3642 for more information or for an application. Funding decisions are made on a first come, first serve basis and work must be completed within one year of the contract date. Applications are coming in slow and we encourage everyone to apply. It really helps spruce up the properties and image of Blissfield. It's very appealing to our neighbors and visitors as property owners take pride in their property by making updates or improvements.

Classic Car Shows

I'm looking forward to more adventures and new projects in Blissfield. Don't miss the summer events downtown with the Classic Car shows August 10, September 14 and October 12. It's been fun, busy, and rewarding and I look forward to coming to Blissfield everyday. Keep on supporting your local businesses and building healthy relationships. "Spend your money where it counts. Shop Blissfield & Lenawee County first!"

Have a Safe and Happy Summer!
Shelly Woods

GAIL GILES SWIMMING POOL

As you may know, the Gail Giles Pool has been open for business since Memorial Day weekend. Unfortunately, all good things must come to an end (at least, for the season). The last day of the pool season will be Monday, September 4 (Labor Day), which will be another free day to pool patrons. This is later than in years past, but we are trying to stay open until school is back in session. We have had another very good season this year, thanks to great lifeguards and wonderful patrons.

HALLOWEEN TRICK-OR-TREAT

This year, Halloween trick-or-treat will be on Tuesday, October 31, from 5:30 pm through 7:00 pm. Following trick-or-treat, the Blissfield Rotary Club should be having their annual Halloween parade and bonfire in Ellis Park.

Tennis Court Project

We opened the bids for the tennis court project on July 14. We only received 2 bids for the project, and they were around \$290,000. This is just too much money to spend on 4 tennis courts, so Council rejected the bids on July 24, and directed that we tweak the specifications and drawings, and that we re-bid the project. We have done so, and the project is back

out to bid. Bids are due later in August, and construction is still planned for this fall. In addition, we are in the running for a United States Tennis Association grant to help build the courts. The facility will consist of 4 courts, arrayed in a north-south orientation, and plans for proper lighting are included. The courts will be located just west of the Middle School parking lot.

FALL LEAF COLLECTION

By the time the next newsletter comes out in November, we will have started our fall leaf collection program. Due to leaf pick-up, there will be no brush collection in November. We will start leaf pick-up in late October, with the following schedule:

- a. Monday, Tuesday: East of River, South of US223.
- b. Wednesday: East of River, North of US223.
- c. Thursday: West of River, North of US223.
- d. Friday: West of River, South of US223.

BRUSH PICK-UP

Our twice-monthly brush pick-up will continue through the end of October, on the 2nd and 4th Tuesdays of each month. The pick-up dates until then are September 12 and 26, and October 10 and 24. There will be no brush pick-up in November (due to leaf pick-up).

We are getting a lot of brush put out to the street far too early again. Our brush pick-up ordinance clearly states that brush may not be put out until the weekend immediately prior to

the scheduled pick-up date. A large number of residents are placing their brush out as early as the day after pick-up dates, so brush sits at the street for up to 3 weeks. Due to nuisance concerns and aesthetic issues, this is not permitted by our brush pick-up ordinance. Please do not place your brush out until the weekend prior to the pick-up dates. If needed, the police will enforce this clause in the ordinance with those residents who violate it.

Village Board Meetings

Village Council	7pm	September 11 and 25 October 9 and 23 November 13 and 27	All Boards meet at the Blissfield Library
Planning Commission	7pm	September 5 (Tuesday) October 2 November 6	
Downtown Development Authority (DDA)	7pm	September 13, October 11 and November 8	
Parks and Recreation Advisory Board	7pm	October 5	
Library Board	4pm	September 21, October 19 and November 16	
Village Council committee	7pm	September 18 October 16 November 20	These meetings are at the Village Office

Village Office Holiday Closing

Due to the Labor Day holiday, the Village Office, Library, and Department of Public Works will be closed for business on Monday, September 4.

FALL RECREATION PROGRAMMING

Registration has started for all fall sports: flag football, fall soccer, cheerleading, and 5th & 6th grade tackle football. Registration forms can be downloaded from the Village's website (www.blissfieldmichigan.gov) and mailed to the Village Office at P.O. Box 129, Blissfield, MI 49228. Registration for fall sports will end on August 18 this year. This will allow for the sports schedules to coincide with the neighboring travel teams from other towns.

Local youth Nathaniel Milner, a second-grader at Blissfield Elementary School, was the winner of the Father's Day contest. His

father, Shawn Milner, was presented with a gift certificate to Beckey's Country Kitchen. The contest was sponsored by Images by Linda.

The winning letter is posted on the Village website for all to read.

The Daddy-Daughter Dance was held on June 17, 2006 at the American Legion Hall. It was well attended even though it was held the day before Father's day. Plans are being made for the next annual event. The date could change back to around Valentine's Day. Please call with your suggestions.

Village Services for Coach Light Estates

We have been getting calls from residents of Coach Light Estates regarding how the Village provides services to residents in the park. We hope this article clears up some of the confusion and misconceptions.

First, and this is important, the streets in Coach Light Estates are not Village-owned streets. They are built and maintained by the owner of the Estates. The same is true of the water and sewer systems located within the boundaries of the Estates. These are also built, operated, and maintained by the owner of the Estates. Any questions about these streets, water lines and meters, and sewer lines should be directed to the owner of the Estates.

Because the streets in the Estates are private streets, the Village has limited jurisdiction over them. We can patrol them with our Police Department (as requested by the Estates owner and approved by the Village Council), but for other services, it doesn't work that way. For example, for brush and leaf pick-up, we offer that to Estates residents, but the brush and leaves must be put out on public streets for pick-up. These would be US223, Wellsville Highway, or Beagle Rd., but not Driggs Rd. out in the Township. In addition, the Village doesn't plow the streets because they are private streets, nor do we spray for mosquitoes on those private streets (we do spray on the adjacent public streets - US223, Wellsville Hwy., and Beagle Rd.).

Street Sweeping

Our new street sweeping schedule seems to be working out very well again this year. The schedule is similar to our leaf pick-up schedule, and street sweeping is still between 4am and 7am on those days. The daily schedule is:

- a. Monday, Tuesday: East of River, South of US223.
- b. Wednesday: East of River, North of US223.
- c. Thursday: West of River, North of US223.
- d. Friday: West of River, South of US223.

Mosquito Spraying

We still have another month or so of mosquito spraying left this season. With the unusually wet weather (and the unusually bad mosquitoes), in mid-July we increased the spray dosage to the maximum rate recommended by the spray manufacturer (an increase of about 50%). This should have some impact on the little buggers, and we'll keep it up as long as we need to.

POLICE NEWS

The Blissfield Police Department has been fortunate to employ very good police officers. We are sad to report the loss of Officer Robert Trevino and Officer Matthew Techentien. Officer Trevino left to take a job with the Clinton Police Department and Officer Techentien left for the Grand Blanc Township Police Department. We wish them well in the future and thank them for their dedication and service to the Village of Blissfield.



We are also fortunate to have had a good group of qualified candidates apply for the open positions on the department.

After a selection process, Council ultimately hired two capable officers to work here. Officer Brian Beeler began working on June 19, 2006 and Officer Glen Meyers on July 13, 2006.



Officer Beeler



Officer Meyers

Officer Brian Beeler was certified by the State of Michigan in May 2002. Since then he has had part-time experience working as an officer in Jonesville, Morenci, Woodstock Twp and Hudson. He has also worked full-time for Adrian Township. Brian came highly recommended by his previous police chiefs and other people that he has worked with. Officer Beeler is married with a young daughter. He and his wife are currently living in Manitou Beach. He received an Associate's Degree in Criminal Justice from St Clair County Community College.

Officer Glen Meyers attended the Kalamazoo Valley Community College Police Academy and graduated with an Associate's Degree in 1998. Officer Meyers worked as a part-time police officer at the Somerset Township Police Department and the Spring Arbor Police Department. His full-time employment for the past 16 years has been at Meijer in the Loss Prevention Department. Meyers has been working toward his goal of a full-time police officer. Officer Meyers is married and the father of two young daughters. They currently live in Jackson, MI.

Congratulations to both of them and welcome to Blissfield!

BLISSFIELD

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Village of Blissfield, 408 E. Adrian St., P.O. Box 129, Blissfield, MI 49228

AUGUST 2006

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SKATEBOARD PARK

The skateboard park committee is still hard at work, and has raised \$23,620 out of the \$70,000 needed for this facility. Of this, \$13,620 is cash, while the other \$10,000 is from written pledges. They still need about \$46,000 and are taking contributions at any time. The Village Council has asked the skateboard park committee to complete its fund-raising by September 30 of this year, so time is of the essence. If you would like to contribute to this worthy cause, and help give the local skateboarders and roller-bladers a place to "do their thing", please call Art Weeber (486-2141) or Lori Barnes (517-443-5486). Your help is needed now! With the tennis courts being built at the school campus this year, the skateboard park committee's intent is to put the facility on or near where the tennis courts used to be in Ellis Park.

WATER & SEWER

Water Plant Consumers' Confidence Report

The water plant's required annual Consumers' Confidence Report (CCR) is now available for the 2005 calendar year. The report outlines how the plant operated in 2005, and how well it met state and federal drinking water guidelines (we had no violations of any kind). It can be viewed at the Village's website (www.blissfieldmichigan.gov), or a copy can be obtained from the Village Office.

Storm and Sanitary Sewer hook-ups

We are almost finished with our sump pump inspection program. Earlier this year, we did the remainder of the NE quadrant of the Village, and sent out notices to those property-owners who have to make corrections to their sump pump connections. Now, we are in the process of completing the west side of the Village, and will send our notices soon to those affected property-owners.

In any event, any Village property-owner who had/has to make a correction, who has not done so, has until November 30 of this year to do so. If you have received a notice to repair, and you have not done anything yet, now is the time to get it done.